

Minutes

INTERACT Daily Management Group Meeting

28 November 2022

Participants: Kirsi Latola, Margareta Johansson, Luisella Bianco, Hannele Savela, and Katharina Beckmann

1. INTERACT 2 reporting

Margareta talked to our EU project officer who explained that we now could submit the final report for INTERACT II. The report has been sent several times back and forth, and double checked, and this is why we were slightly surprised when we got it in return with 16 points that needed to be fixed. Most of them were however easily fixed. Now we are waiting for a few partners to resubmit and hopefully we get everything through before Christmas. For now, there is no estimate on how long it will take before the partners get their final payments.

2. INTERACT 3 Amendment

Our EU officer also clarified that we should now submit our amendment regarding the termination of collaboration with our Russian partners. This amendment will only include the termination of the Russian partners. We will launch another amendment as soon as the first is approved to request a one-year prolongation of the project due to the two missed field seasons (as a result of covid).

From the Russian partners, there are funds over for TA and VA. A reallocation of budget will be made to cover Vanessa's salary in WP3. There are also some funds left from the Russian partners in WP2, this will be reallocated to the coordinator to fund another DMG meeting.

3. INTERACT 3 Second periodic report

The second periodic report will open in the EU Funding and Tenders portal on the 1st of January. The deadline for the report is 28 February 2023. Some information requested for Part A regarding gender, publications and dissemination will be sent out before Christmas. After New Year, the content of the technical report (Part B) will be collected together with the financial statements from the partners.

As the EU financial officer is very thorough, we will update the guidelines and also reject cost statements where information is missing (like meeting date etc.) to ensure as smooth periodic report submission as possible. In order to mitigate misunderstandings and avoid rejection points, Hannele and Luisella will arrange a webinar.

- Hannele and Luisella will arrange a webinar to give general information about the reporting process.

4. New Observer Stations

A high alpine research station “Alt Pirineu Natural Park” in Spain wants to join INTERACT. This station has permanent long-term monitoring and fulfils the prerequisites of an INTERACT station. INTERACT has a mentoring roll and it would be natural to include them (especially now that we have lost 21 stations in Russia). The DMG agreed to include Alt Pirineu Natural Park as a new observer station.

Since we are a network of not only Arctic stations, we also need to brand ourselves clearer towards the alpine and boreal region. Especially this part could be strengthened on the INPA website. This work will be done after the periodic reporting has been delivered to the EU.

5. INPA

Arctic Passion

Caroline has been working hard on making a review of what is being monitored and how. She has then looked at the priorities within Arctic Passion and narrowed possible new monitoring to a few parameters that have been discussed with the research stations. The research stations have then come up with a wish list with instruments that can improve their monitoring. What we need from the ten research stations is that they need to put up, maintain, and afterwards own the equipment. This week the equipment will be ordered centrally by INPA and then sent to the stations. The Arctic Passion’s first periodic report opens on 1 January.

ERimote

Vanessa has attended work package meetings and prepared surveys regarding the experience of TA and RA for station managers, and another one on VA. This will be used for both INTERACT and other ERimote partners. An expert group will start within the framework of ERimote. INPA will be chairing one of these expert groups and this expert group will be about Quality Assessment of the access provision.

There will be 3-4 online meetings starting in March and spread out until October or November 2023. A case study and survey are planned, and will be launched next week and later fed into the case study. This is a preparation for a road map that will provide guidelines how to improve RA, VA for the future.

We need to explore how we can employ Vanessa at INPA to ensure that the funding allocated for salary can be used.

ABC iCap

A small, but important survey was suggested among the INTERACT research stations, but never conducted and we should take this up again (not to gain money, but recognition and visibility). Terry and Margareta will get back to Simon to check what is requested for the work and to see how INPA can contribute now without the Russian involvement that was included at the outset.

Formation of new group for emeritus scientists “AGE”

Terry and Margareta suggested to form an APECS for emeritus scientists. A suggestion is to call it AGE (Association from Grumpy Ex scientists) and to create this within INPA. A lot of thinking has to be done before we can launch this, maybe a survey to see who would like to join. The rationale behind the formation of such a group would be to limit the loss of wisdom that people that have been working in the Arctic their whole lives.

INPA and INTERACT

We need to be clear on the difference between INPA and INTERACT. The websites and newsletters are important channels and INPA will soon need its own newsletter. We also need to find out how to manage the website ourselves. At the moment, only our Russian colleagues have the code and can make changes (the web site is however hosted in Canada). It is not based on WordPress but on Tilda. An option could be to hire someone from Sweden (and migrate the whole website to another platform that we can control ourselves – or rebuild it from scratch). We will bring it up at the INPA board meeting.

6. Upcoming EU infrastructure call

There is an upcoming EU infrastructure call that will be announced in December 2022, with an application deadline 9 March. The maximum budget is 14,5 Million/project. One of the topics in the call is for RI services for sustainable polar regions. These infrastructure calls requests TA, RA and VA but no networking or joint research activities.

Margareta had a meeting with Nicole and Veronica, finding out that AWI will lead an application. INPA cannot do TA by itself but each of the stations have to be invited individually. INPA could provide INTERACCESS because we own the system. It would only need to be adjusted to include research vessels and research stations in the Antarctic as well. AWI is very interested in the knowledge that INTERACT has. How do we envisage our participation? For now, we will identify stations that fit the call and see if they are interested in joining. A new meeting will be held with Veronica and Nicole this afternoon. INPA and INTERACT members' role in the new application will be discussed.

- Transfer the ownership of the INTERACT Data Portal and INTERACCESS to INPA. This should be done simultaneously so that these services can be offered to other projects.

7. Upcoming external meetings

Arctic Science Summit Week, 17-24 February 2023, Vienna

INTERACT will host the second TA user community meeting at ASSW on the 20 February 14.00-15. 30 CET. There will be three early career scientists that have done TA and also combinations of RA/VA. There will also be a panel discussion about access provision in the future.

Another INTERACT contribution has been accepted, but the time for that presentation has not been set yet. “Physical and virtual access to arctic terrestrial observing platforms and their data” is the title. Hannele, Kirsi, and Elmer (and probably Vanessa) will be attending the ASSW.

- Katharina will talk to Vanessa regarding a booth

8. Any other issues

Social media

Vanessa is very interested in helping out and working together with Katharina on INTERACT’s social media channel.

- Katharina and Vanessa will meet to discuss strategies.

INTERACT docuseries

It was decided that the INTERACT docuseries will be called “Northwards – together for the future”. Luisella is working on the final touch and will most likely be able to show it for the DMG in the beginning of the New Year.

Next annual meeting 2023

We have received two invitations from North America to host our next INTERACT General Assembly. Donie is still inviting us to come to Toolik Field Station and Mickaël has offered to invite us to Quebec City for a meeting. We will start by finding the dates that suit the WP leaders and DMG and then contact both stations and asks who is able to host us during these dates.

- Katharina sends a doodle poll to work package leaders and DMG for dates during the first 3 weeks in September.